

## Motorists, prepare to dodge barrels

Road work » \$4B in projects to snarl traffic along Wasatch Front.

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By Brandon Loomis

The Utah Department of Transportation is conducting nearly \$4 billion worth of road projects this year -- and you know what that means:

Get ready for the orange barrels of summer, and adjust your commute accordingly.

UDOT officials hope motorists will do just that, and that some employers might even shift to a work-at-home option for those who have to drive past the worst snarls on Interstate 15 in the Provo area during a 24-mile, \$1.7 billion expansion.

On Monday, officials released a map of their top 25 projects and asked motorists to take a look online or in pamphlets distributed at 200 Subway sandwich shops or 600 hotels, motels, rental car agencies and visitor centers.

"Avoid peak hours," UDOT Deputy Director Carlos Braceras advised.

That could be especially wise advice on southbound I-15 between Orem and Provo this summer. There, between University Parkway and Center Street, crews will close one lane for five months, starting this month or next. If the same amount of cars as usual continue to travel at peak hours, UDOT projects delays of one to two hours.

"It's going to be painful for five months," Braceras said. "Nothing else will compare."

But there already are some tough drives setting up in the Salt Lake Valley. UDOT is installing continuous-flow interchanges at 6200 South and Redwood Road, 5400 South and Bangerter Highway, and 4700 South and Bangerter Highway. All of those are busy crossroads in Taylorsville that will require some advance planning to avoid bottlenecks.

On 5400 South, the state will build "flex lanes" from Bangerter Highway to Redwood Road.

The center lanes will be reversible to go with the prevailing flow of morning and evening traffic.

Traffic also is bogging down during the evening rush on I-15 in Layton, due to interchange work, Braceras said.

In Utah County, I-15 project spokeswoman Heather Barney said the department's goal is to reduce traffic 20 percent by encouraging alternate routes and telecommuting.

Otherwise, commuters soon may see dramatic slowing.

Staying informed about the work will help reduce inconveniences for everyone, Braceras said, although some delays are unavoidable this time of year as road builders try to keep pace with Utah's demand.

"It's a fast-growing state," he said.

Three projects to watch

I-15, Utah County » Five lanes go to four possibly later this month, potentially causing one- to two-hour delays from Orem to Provo.

Taylorsville » Plan ahead to avoid jams caused by interchange work at 6200 South and Redwood Road, and 5400 South and 4700 South and Bangerter Highway.

I-15, Layton area » Evening delays persist because of interchange work, lane additions.

Wasatch Front construction projects

See a map of summer projects on **A4**. To view current road work on an interactive map, go to [www.udot.utah.gov](http://www.udot.utah.gov) and click on the orange-barreled "Know Where, Know Why" icon on the right.

Know where to dodge the cones. To view current work online and zoom in on an interactive map, go to

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### I-15 motorists will face delays

This summer's top road projects along the Wasatch Front will mean potential delays for Interstate 15 motorists, particularly in Utah County where a 24-mile stretch of the freeway is being reworked.



Source: Utah Department of Transportation

The Salt Lake Tribune

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